

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pagesS265–S291

Measures Introduced: Three bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 2031–2033, and S. Res. 292. **Page S286**

Measures Reported:

S. 129, to provide for reform relating to Federal employment, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 108–223) **Page S286**

Pension Funding Equity Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of H.R. 3108, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements and other provisions, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S266–78**

Adopted:

Grassley (for Nickles) Amendment No. 2264 (to Amendment No. 2233), to express the sense of the Senate with respect to the status of private pension plans. **Pages S274–75**

Grassley Modified Amendment No. 2261 (to Amendment No. 2233), to extend transfers of excess pension assets to retiree health accounts. **Page S278**

Pending:

Grassley Amendment No. 2233, of a perfecting nature. **Pages S266–78**

Kyl Amendment No. 2236 (to Amendment No. 2233), to restrict an employer that elected an alternative deficit reduction contribution from applying for a funding waiver. **Page S266**

Rejected:

Kyl Amendment No. 2234 (to Amendment No. 2233), to limit the liability of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation with respect to a plan for which a reduced deficit contribution is elected. (By 67 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. 4), Senate tabled the amendment). **Pages S266–72**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at 11 a.m., on Wednesday, January 28, 2004, that there be 30 minutes for debate, equally divided between

the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Finance, or their designees; that Senator Kyl control 10 additional minutes; that, upon conclusion of debate, the Senate vote in relation to amendment No. 2236; that, upon disposition of the amendment, the Senate vote on the question of agreeing to amendment No. 2233; that, upon disposition of said amendment, the bill, as amended, be read the third time and the Senate then vote on final passage of the bill. **Pages S278, S291**

Executive Communications: **Pages S284–86**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S286–87**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S287–89**

Additional Statements: **Pages S281–84**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S289–91**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S291**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Page S291**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—4) **Page S272**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon, and adjourned at 4:49 p.m., until 11 a.m., on Wednesday, January 28, 2004. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S291.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FOOD SAFETY: BSE

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the current situation regarding the discovery of a case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in a dairy cow in Washington State as it relates to food safety, livestock marketing and international trade, after receiving testimony from Senators Durbin and Allard; Ann M. Veneman, Secretary of Agriculture; Lester M. Crawford, Deputy Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services; and Alfonso Torres, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, New York.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the budget and economic outlook for fiscal years 2005 to 2014, after receiving testimony from Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to assess the international effort to stabilize and rebuild Afghanistan, focusing on the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), after receiving testimony from General James L. Jones, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe, Mons, Belgium; and William B. Taylor, Jr., Coordinator for Afghanistan, Department of State.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Committee on Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial Management, the Budget, and International Security concluded an oversight hearing to examine the disclosure of mutual fund fees and the need for additional disclosures of mutual fund practices, including how the fees and other costs that investors pay as part of owning fund shares can affect their investment returns, after receiving testimony from Richard J. Hillman, Director, Financial Markets and Community Investment, General Accounting Office; New York Attorney General Eliot L. Spitzer, Albany; Peter T. Scannell, Weymouth Landing, Massachusetts; James Nesfield, Nesfield Capital, Engelhard, North Carolina; John C. Bogle, Bogle Financial Markets Research Center/Vanguard Group, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania; Jeffrey C. Keil, Lipper Inc., Travis Plunkett, Consumer Federation of America, Paul S. Stevens, Dechert LLP, on behalf of the Investment Company Institute, and Marc E. Lackritz, Securities Industry Association, all of Washington, D.C.; and John P. Freeman, University of South Carolina School of Law, Columbia.

U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTINUITY

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine a proposed constitutional amendment to guarantee a functioning Congress, with respect to ensuring the continuity of the United States government, after receiving testimony from former Senator Alan Simpson, on behalf of the Continuity of Government Commission; Sanford V. Levinson, University of Texas Law School, Austin; and Howard M. Wasserman, Florida International University College of Law, Miami.

SEAPORT SECURITY

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology, and Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine seaport security since September 11, 2001, focusing on the National Targeting Center, the Automated Targeting System, the Container Security Initiative, and non-intrusive inspection and radiation detection technologies, after receiving testimony from Rear Admiral Larry L. Hereth, Director of Port Security, U.S. Coast Guard, and Robert M. Jacksta, Executive Director, Border Security and Facilitation, Office of Field Operations, Customs and Border Protection, both of the Department of Homeland Security; and Gary M. Bald, Acting Assistant Director, Counter-Terrorism Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

RETIREMENT PLANNING

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine retirement planning, including retirement reform proposals, after receiving testimony from Jack L. VanDerhei, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on behalf of the Employee Benefit Research Institute; and Jagadeesh Gokhale, CATO Institute, Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 6 public bills, H.R. 3729–3734; 1 private bill, H.R. 3735; and 1 resolution, H. Con. Res 350, were introduced. **Page H127**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H128**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 502, providing for consideration of S. 610, to amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, to provide for workforce flexibilities and certain Federal personnel provisions relating to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (H. Rept. 108–406); and

H. Res. 503, providing for consideration of S. 1920, to extend for 6 months the period for which